

THE NAME TARAXACUM OFFICINALE.—In *Castanea*, xii. 61, 62 (1947) Dr. F. R. Fosberg, citing my taking up of the name *Taraxacum officinale* Weber, concludes: "Why he uses the later *Taraxacum officinale* rather than *T. vulgare* is not clear". Since others have asked the same question, a word of explanation may help them: the name *T. vulgare* (Lam.) Schrank (1792), based on *Leontodon vulgaris* Lam. Fl. Fr. ii. 113 (1778), is illegitimate under the International Rules. Lamarck's name was a substitute for *Leontodon Taraxacum* L.:

"Pissenlit commun. *Leontodon vulgare*.

*Leontodon taraxacum* Lin. Sp. 1122."

As said, by the International Rules such mere substitute-names are ruled out and cannot be taken up under another generic name if, at the date of transfer, there already existed a legitimate epithet of its own rank. When the combination *Taraxacum vulgare* (Lam.) Schrank (1792) was published there already existed the legitimate name *Taraxacum officinale* Weber (1780). Therefore, *T. officinale* is the correct name, unless someone turns up one which is earlier. Since this working of an important rule is not understood by many botanists this brief statement may be clarifying.—M. L. FERNALD.

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